

with apprehension lest his should be lost. The freedom was
at times so fearful, that no meeting was done. A great public
dinner was given soon after, to the memory of the late
it. I like such exhibitions, & I was glad I did not go to
that one, as it was displaced by much printing, & a good
deal of disagreeable quarrels. The very parties who are best in
their expressions of approval of our total reformation, who acknow-
ledge that, but for it, Ireland would not now stand in the proud
position which she occupies, have neither the virtue nor the patriotism
to purge the great question of their national appetite for intoxicating
drinks. I am often much surprised at the conduct of our middle
upper classes, in relation to our temperance reform. My only hope
is, that the People will be firm in the maintenance of their principles,
& that ultimately, this good conduct will shame & induce those
above them in station, to relinquish their degrading customs.
There is, no doubt, a great improvement of late years, in the habits
of our wealthy classes, excessive drinking is fast becoming a
private life. I apprehend there is a very striking difference
between your country & mine, as regards Teetotalism, here it is
almost entirely confined to the people, with you, numbers
of the gentry have been & advocate it. I am the only man

among the Ministers of this city, who take an active interest in
the cause, with the exception of the few ministers who compose
our Anti-Slavery Society, as we have been styled,
there are few persons as, in what is called respectable life, who
exclude mind & spirit from their talks. So that it is really a
matter of amazement that a large proportion of our people should
have determined on shaking off their chains. Father Mathew's
influence was at first all powerful & it shall have a great effect
in the minds of the multitude but those great hopes that he
brought with him which the people have derived from the movement,
has brought with a happy change in his feelings that we shall
not relapse into our former degrading habits. [I am sorry to say
that Father Mathew's active labors are, for the present, retarded
by pecuniary difficulties, he has expended all his money & a
great deal more than he was preparing in forwarding the
cause. But it is necessary to make a public appeal on
his behalf, to relieve him, & restore him to active usefulness.
I cannot yet tell how that appeal may be responded to.]
Does weakness of the power in which your devoted husband
became a martyr to Anti-Slavery, brought to my recollection the
cause of my own conversion, which was just similar. I

was reading a lecture to a poor man in the impromptu
his dejected spirit when he asked me why I left it in a
house myself. I went away humbled, & found myself con-
strained to thank the prison. You and your kind
remembrance to my wife. Hope I may be able one day
other to thank it to her 15th year. Love & gladness my
heart since I met my beloved one in this life. Time has long
since blunted the edge of my sorrow so that you need not
feel as if you had wounded me. I saw your expression of
regret in your letter to A D Webb. When my dear wife
died my eldest child was in her 7th year. My youngest
just 4 months old. There 4 daughters & one son, now all
grown up, & my dear lady is "silvered her with age". I am
in my 50th year. As my son is able to take my place, to be
content, in my office. I have some time to spare for pursuits
connected with pecuniary matters. Her day thought we had
agreed to leave with you, & other valued friends in America,
with a few kindred spirits nearer home. Striving to be
useful with these, & hope you busy so that Time will not
run back at a rapid rate. None of it passes idly away
and I cannot meet the day any more for the day

Harvard
Oct 14. 1844

Ms. A.9.2.20.71